

## **VOTE-BY-MAIL TRACKER: COUNTED VS. RECEIVED**

Florida Statute allows the processing of Vote-By-Mail ballots to begin 22 days before Election Day. In compliance with State Law and to ensure that we can process the Vote-By-Mail ballots in an efficient manner, our office has begun opening and processing mail ballots. By law, ballots are not "COUNTED" until the polls close on Election Day.



Voters can track their ballot on our website to ensure that their vote was processed and will be counted. If the tracker shows that a ballot has been "RECEIVED" in blue, there are no issues. That ballot has been processed and will officially be "COUNTED" after polls close on Election Day.



If the tracker shows that a ballot has been "RECEIVED" in red, an issue with the ballot has been detected. If an issue is detected, our office will contact the voter using the information we have on file. If the voter's tracker indicates that there is an issue, they should call our office immediately.

The program that we use to track mail ballots is also used by many other Supervisors of Elections across the state. Our vendor's program does allow us to show a ballot as "COUNTED" immediately upon receipt (as some other counties do); however, doing that does not allow us to indicate at that time to the voter if they do in fact have a signature issue. If we showed a ballot as "COUNTED" immediately upon its receipt, a voter's tracker could initially show that their ballot was "COUNTED," but upon completion of our signature review, it could change to "RECEIVED" in red if an issue was detected. We have requested a change in the technology to adjust that.

We believe that the system we have in place is the best option to ensure those who return their Vote-By-Mail ballot trust that it has been received, has been processed, and will be "COUNTED" on Election Day, in accordance with State Law.

Remember, a blue tracker means your vote was processed and will be counted. A red tracker means we need to address an issue with your ballot.